



STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
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Press Release

February 19, 2004

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ATTORNEY GENERAL DARRELL MCGRAW'S SETTLEMENT WITH MICROSOFT RECEIVES FINAL APPROVAL

Attorney General Darrell McGraw announced today the final approval of a settlement reached with Microsoft Corporation in June, 2003. The settlement requires Microsoft to offer the State \$19.7 million in value which can be redeemed by West Virginia consumers and businesses.

After a hearing February 10, 2004, Boone County Circuit Judge E. Lee Schlaegel granted final approval today of the settlement. The settlement becomes effective August, 2004, which is approximately sixty days after the end of the appeal period.

Up to \$18 million dollars is available to West Virginia consumers and businesses in the form of vouchers that may be used to buy any manufacturers' desktop, laptop and tablet computers as well as any manufacturers' software used with those computer products and some peripheral devices used for personal computers. Of the \$18 million in vouchers for consumers and businesses, one half of any unclaimed vouchers will go to West Virginia public schools in the form of vouchers for hardware, software and professional development services.

"I'm glad that this settlement will not only help consumers and businesses, but our school children as well," said Attorney General McGraw.

To file a claim, consumers may contact the settlement administrator at P.O. Box 3505, Portland, Oregon 97208-3605; call 1-888-774-3252; visit the Internet website www.microsoftproductssettlement.com/westvirginia; or call Attorney General McGraw's consumer hotline at 1-800-368-8808. Claims for the vouchers must be submitted no later than March 18, 2004.

Additional terms of the settlement include \$1 million in general purpose vouchers earmarked for West Virginia schools for hardware and software from any manufacturer, and \$700,000 in general purpose vouchers to be distributed by Attorney General McGraw to benefit West Virginia citizens.

Consumers or businesses with questions about the settlement or claims process can call the settlement administrator at 1-888-774-3252 or Attorney General McGraw's consumer hotline at 1-800-368-8808.

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